

WASHINGTON
AND TIMES HERALD

Service Set

Salute to Twining Is Biggest, Best

By Winzola McLendon

THE AIR FORCE has been boasting that Gen. Nathan Twining's retirement would be "the biggest the military has ever seen." Yesterday they kept that promise.

From the minute Twining's Army and Navy contemporaries passed through the Bolling Air Force Base gate to drive through a nine-block-long honor guard until they'd polished off their last drinks at a 900-guest reception given at the Officers' Club, they were impressed.

"They even flew over his personal plane," said one awed general.

And lamented a Naval officer, "Admiral Burke (Chief of Naval Operations) retires next year. How can we top this?" He was looking at the fabulous array of food, beautifully displayed on a dozen or more tables in the Ballroom of the Officers' Club.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE and Mrs. Thomas Gates Jr., were hosts at the



party, and headed a receiving line which included Gen. and Mrs. Twining, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff with their wives.

Gen. L. L. Lemnitzer who is replacing Gen. Twining as Chairman of JCS, was in the line with Mrs. Lemnitzer. But, although sworn in as Chairman at 2:30 p.m., in a Pentagon ceremony, he stood in the position protocol dictated for his old job as Army Chief of Staff. Why? Because, explained the General, "I don't officially take over until midnight."

Admiral Arleigh Burke and Mrs. Burke were in the line, as were Air Force Chief of Staff and Mrs. Thomas White, and Commandant of the Marine Corps and Mrs. David Shoup.

EARLY THROUGH the line were Gen. George Decker who was sworn in as Army Chief of Staff—replacing Gen. Lemnitzer—just a few minutes after his predecessor was named to the top United States military post. Incidentally, Gen. Decker is considered the best golfer among all the services' senior officers.

Former Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy was there. He said Mrs. McElroy "stayed home because she had a lot of women stuff planned and she was the hostess."

Gen. and Mrs. Charles P. Cabell were sampling the rare roast of beef (450 pounds were prepared for the party), while nearby the Floyd Akerses were trying the skewered lamb and beef.

OTHER GUESTS found much to praise on other buffets filled with 400 pounds of pheasant, 100 pounds of Alaska King Crab—frozen in "commercially" yesterday morning—3000 bite-size mousses of lamb, duck, chicken or salmon, 240 pounds of turkey and the same weight in ham, and more than 1000 French pastries.